

HONORING BOB KUSSE, FORMER
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of former Pennsylvania State Senator and personal friend, Bob Kusse who passed this February. Bob Kusse was born in Rochester, New York in 1918, and attended the Universities of Rochester and Buffalo. Despite his New York roots however, this man dedicated the rest of his adult life to serving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Bob Kusse served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1972 to 1977. He was elected to the State Senate in a special election in May 1977. I had the great pleasure of working for Senator Kusse from 1981 until the Senator's retirement in 1984.

Senator Kusse was one of the toughest, most principled voices in the Pennsylvania State Senate. He was a remarkable advocate of improving the state's transportation system as well as the state's business climate. He was a committed conservative who was always ready to make tough decisions and make Pennsylvania attractive for new job creation.

Senator Kusse presided at a critical time and over efforts to rebuild the states' roads and bridges, expand its turnpike and put its mass transit systems on a sound footing. As a top fiscal conservative, he was a uniquely credible spokesman to join with Transportation Secretary Larsen and push for much needed revenues to fix Pennsylvania's transportation system.

Senator Kusse brought a rare integrity and wonderful outspokenness to the House, and later, the Senate. Bob Kusse was a self-made man who loved his community and his family, and had a marvelous love of learning that culminated in his seeking his Bachelor's degree, in his seventies, at Edinboro University after his retirement from the Pennsylvania State Senate. He was wonderful mentor and a truly marvelous public servant.

I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating the life of Senator Bob Kusse.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MR.
ROBERT ZERKLE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career and extensive community involvement of Mr. Robert Zerkle of Mascoutah, Illinois.

Bob served in the Mascoutah School District for 38 years, as a math teacher, Business Manager and Assistant Superintendent, before retiring in 2001.

Even after his retirement from the Mascoutah School District, Bob has continued to be a staunch advocate of Impact Aid, the federal program which provides assistance to local school districts that have been impacted

by the presence of federal property, such as the impact Scott Air Force Base has had on the Mascoutah School District in the Congressional district I represent. He has received several awards commending his efforts, including the 2008 Friends of the National Association of Federally Impact Schools Award and the Globe Award recognizing his career working on behalf of Impact Aid.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative for Scott Air Force Base, I have witnessed first hand how important the Impact Aid program is to our region and our students. Not only does it provide school districts such as Mascoutah with essential funding otherwise unavailable, it assures the men and women of our fighting forces that their children will receive a great education while they are keeping America safe and secure.

The tireless efforts of individuals like Bob Zerkle are an example of how one individual's dedication to a cause can have a lifetime effect on a community. Bob's wealth of experience and overwhelming devotion will no doubt be missed among his colleagues and his students.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Bob Zerkle for his years of dedicated service in support of Impact Aid and the students of the Mascoutah School district. I wish Bob the very best in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE CHATEAUGAY
BULLDOGS UPON WINNING
THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE BOYS
CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chateaugay Central School District's Bulldogs upon winning the 2008 New York State Boys Basketball Class D Championship. I am proud to represent the community of Chateaugay, New York, and this team, which won not only Chateaugay's first state basketball championship but also the first boys state basketball championship won by a Section X team.

On March 15, 2008, the Chateaugay Bulldogs won the New York State Class D Championship when they defeated the North Star Christian Academy Knights by a score of 52 to 41. In that game, the Bulldogs were in control from the opening tip and never fell behind. Brad Dumont lead the Bulldogs' balanced scoring attack with 16 points and six assists in the championship game and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. In addition, the Bulldogs' Zach Peck, who was named to the Class D All Tournament team, contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds while Drew Boyea added 12 points in the final contest. Of note, the Bulldogs' Jordan Rankin was awarded the Tournament's Sportsmanship Award.

The Chateaugay Bulldogs completed the 2008 season with a record of 24 and 1. They were coached by Ron Boyea and assistant coaches Steve Lang, Jason LaPlante, and Mike Martin. Other team members were Tyler Beach, Andy Cook, Andrew Gadway, Ryan Helm, Jordan Henderson, Cody Hesseltine,

Blake Parmater, Brad Spinner, Cory Spoor and Dylan White.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of this team and their accomplishments. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating them.

INTRODUCING THE RESTORING
THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COUNTY
HEALTH CARE COSTS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker. I rise today with my colleagues Representatives RUSH HOLT and MICHAEL BURGESS introduced bi-partisan legislation today which will restore the federal-local partnership in covering medical expenses for incarcerated individuals before they are adjudicated.

The Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2008 ensures that individuals currently receiving Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security Insurance (SSI) will continue to receive those benefits until they are tried and convicted and that local governments will not be forced to cover the medical expenses of individuals who have not yet been convicted of any wrongdoing.

A person incarcerated in a county jail or juvenile detention facility in almost all states is ineligible to receive Medicare, Medicaid, or SSI benefits once they enter the facility. Under current law, however, the suspension of benefits occurs prior to the issuance of formal charges or conviction. As a result, local governments (usually county governments) are responsible for not only meeting and paying for the mandate that all individuals who are inmates of public institutions be provided with health care, but also for the days, weeks, months, and even years leading up to an actual conviction. If a person is found innocent, the reinstatement of federal benefits—benefits which should not have been taken away in the first place—can takes months, while the local government continues to be responsible for covering the non-reimbursable costs associated with providing the federally-mandated health care to these individuals. The cost assessed to counties, although not exact, is in the hundreds of millions nationwide.

The bipartisan Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2008 addresses this issue prohibiting the Federal Government from stripping individuals of their Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI benefits prior to actually being convicted and reaffirming the federal-local partnership in meeting this mandate.

Madam Speaker, stripping people of their federal benefits before they have been convicted of anything is a direct contradiction of the basic presumption of innocence which is the foundation of the American criminal justice system. And for the Federal Government to stick local governments with the tab for this contradictory policy is just plain wrong.

The Federal and local governments are partners in ensuring that all of our residents have medical coverage. Neither partner should be bearing an unfair burden in meeting this mandate.

Our bipartisan legislation is a common sense solution to this continuing problem, and

I urge my colleagues to support its expeditious passage.

HONORING KATHRYN GUSTAFSON

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the honoring of her lifetime achievement, one of Seattle's great historic organizations, the Rainier Club, the People of the State of Washington would like to hold up as a national inspiration the special record of one of our State, Nation, and world's most notable landscape architects, the distinguished and virtually peerless Kathryn Gustafson.

I have supported and honored the arts as a unique vehicle for personal growth and community enrichment. Landscape architecture in particular has the capacity to elevate the daily experiences of people from all walks of life while promoting harmony and balance between people and nature.

Ms. Kathryn Gustafson's significant contributions to the discipline of landscape architecture are as impressive as they are vast in geography, style, theme and dimensions ranging from 1 acre to 150 acres.

As the BBC noted in a 2002 article, Ms. Gustafson's work "is about harmony between the land and the mind, body and soul, she says, and harmony between the site's past and how it can be adapted for the future."

My home city of Seattle has been the beneficiary of her fine touch with projects such as Seattle's City Hall Plaza and the McCaw Hall Opera House.

From Seattle to London and Paris to Beirut, Kathryn Gustafson's work in designing landscapes for complex, high-use spaces has enriched the lives of countless people. A sampling of her works include The Square of Human Rights in Evry, France; the Square Rachmaninov in Paris; the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park, London; the Museum of Art at the University of Michigan; and countless others.

While Ms. Gustafson's awards are too numerous to list, she has been honored with the prestigious 2007 National Heritage of the 20th Century Award, bestowed by the French Minister of Culture; the 2003 Design Merit Award of the American Society of Landscape Architects for her work on the Arthur Ross Terrace at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City; and in 2001 the esteemed Chrysler Design Award, which is described by Chrysler as honoring the "achievements of individuals who have consistently championed seminal works of architecture and design, and significantly influenced modern American culture."

But perhaps the most enduring honor of all is to lay claim to the translation of one's talents and vision into works that lift the spirits of millions of world citizens each and every day, and for decades and perhaps centuries to come.

We in Washington's Seventh Congressional District give thanks to Kathryn Gustafson for her unique abilities and for sharing them with so many of her fellow citizens in the public sphere. We are proud to have such a distinguished architect among us.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH ALISHA NUMBERS FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Alisha Numbers showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Alisha Numbers was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Numbers has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Alisha Numbers for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

KRISTEN VASQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kristen Vasquez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Kristen Vasquez is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kristen Vasquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kristen Vasquez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING CREATION OF REFUGEE POPULATION

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, this week the House passed House Resolution 185, which expresses the sense of the House regarding the existence of refugee populations

in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region. In addition to the international concern about Palestinian refugees, this resolution calls attention to the injustices suffered by Jews and other ethnic groups that have lived as minorities in the region. I fully support this resolution's call for recognition of the rights of former Jewish, Christian, and other refugees from Arab countries.

While much of the resolution is important and sets forth historically accurate information, the final paragraph of the resolving clause conditions resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on resolution of "all refugees displaced from Arab countries." I share the goal of resolving all refugee issues in the Middle East, but I do not believe it is likely that they can be resolved through the Annapolis process or some future Israeli-Palestinian negotiating process. In my view, imposing such a condition will likely doom Annapolis and any subsequent good-faith effort to follow the roadmap to a permanent two-state solution first laid out in 2003. I certainly hope that all Middle Eastern refugee issues can and will be resolved, including refugees of the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other minority faiths, but I cannot support linking the resolution of all Middle Eastern refugee issues to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It's not fair to Israelis or to Palestinians to tie the resolution of their conflict to a global resolution of all Middle Eastern refugee issues.

I also disagree with the way the U.S. Congress, by passing this measure, has imposed new stipulations for any agreement, which effectively ties the hands of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

These negotiators already have enough roadblocks to dismantle; the last thing that they need is the U.S.

Congress trying to prescribe a certain method or outcome on a difficult issue in the negotiations, which is the refugee issue. Many of my colleagues and I believe the Annapolis negotiations have not gone as well as we hoped, but they are still—for the moment—moving forward. Rather than trying to impose a particular outcome on refugee issues, the Congress should express its support of the process and encourage the parties to work toward resolution of the issues they have already agreed are most essential.

Again, I favor reducing the impediments to a final resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Instead, this week's resolution raises a new roadblock to the implementation of the roadmap. I urge all parties to support the peace process as they carefully balance the interests of all refugees. Let's support the negotiations, move the parties to final status, and work towards a vision of peace.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. BESSIE (DAVIS) WYNN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Bessie (Davis) Wynn, a poet, born April 5, 1908 in Carr, Florida.

Mrs. Wynn is the daughter and second child of James Stephen Davis II and Annie Elizabeth Ware Davis. As a child she went to